

STATE SENATOR • RAYMOND E. BASHAM • 8TH DISTRICT

Basham Press Release

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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BASHAM PRAISES GOVERNOR'S LEADERSHIP IN IMPROVING WAYNE COUNTY'S ROADS

Public Meetings Scheduled to Answer Any Community Concerns

LANSING- State Senator Ray Basham (D-Taylor) today praised Governor Jennifer Granholm's leadership for giving the green light to nearly \$300 million worth of improvements to the Wayne County transportation system. Sen. Basham had been working with the Governor's office to win funding for several district projects vital to our local economy.

"I want to thank Governor Granholm for showing great leadership in the way she carefully balanced fiscal responsibility with transportation improvement projects that are vital to our state's economic development," said Sen. Basham. "The Governor's Fix It First policy is a sound way to keep our existing transportation infrastructure fully operational at time when money is tight."

The highlight of the Michigan Department of Transportation's (MDOT) 2004 transportation improvement program will be the reconstruction and re-alignment of I-94 between Beech Daly and Pelham roads in the city of Taylor. The \$58.6 million project includes the construction of Michigan's first tied-arch bridge over US-24 (Telegraph Road), and rebuilding the interchange to eliminate the outdated left-lane entrance and exit ramps. Also included is the reconstruction of US-24 between Ecorse and Van Born roads.

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Other local improvement projects include:

- Reconstruction of one-half mile on M-39 (Southfield Road) between Porter and Lafayette streets in Lincoln Park at a cost of \$3.2 million.
- Pavement repairs to 1.3 miles on M-39, from south of I-94 to south of Outer Drive in Allen Park, at a cost of \$1.2 million.
- Conduct landscaping upgrades to the I-275 interchanges at I-94, Eureka Road.
- Airport investments include extending Taxiway G and the construction of a new Airline Rescue and Fire Fighting facility at Detroit Metropolitan Airport.

“Preserving and enhancing our existing transportation infrastructure is critical to the continued economic growth of our area,” said Sen. Basham. “Job creation is tied to economic growth and that means we must keep our transportation system competitive.”

Two meetings have been scheduled by MDOT to help answer any questions members of the local community may have regarding the I-94/US-24 interchange project. The dates and times for the hearings are as follows:

Tuesday, February 24, 2004
12:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Taylor Sportsplex
13333 Telegraph Road, Taylor

Thursday, February 26, 2004
7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.
Taylor City Hall
23555 Goddard Road, Taylor

State Sen. Basham (D-Taylor) represents the 8th district.